

REMARKS

Claims 20-38 and 49-67 are pending. Claims 1-16 and 39-48 are canceled by this amendment.

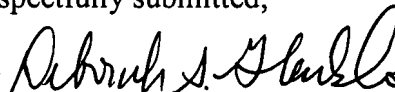
Claims 1-11 and 39-48 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tabata, U.S. Patent 6,537,324 in view of Maeda, Japanese Patent Publication No. 2000-118085. Claims 12-16 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tabata in view of Hamano, Japanese Patent Publication No. 10-301954. In view of the cancellation of claims 1-16 and 39-48, these rejections are now moot.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 325772028000.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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